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COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: 16 AND 17 MARCH 1968

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDA IN VIENTIANE REGARDING THE

ATTACK ON PHOU PHA THI, SITE 85, IN HOUA

PHAN PROVINCE

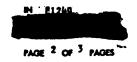
ACQ:

LAOS, VIENTIANE (29 MARCH 1968)

SOURCE:

I. ON 17 MARCH 1968 COLONEL SOTH PHETRASY, THE NEO LAO HAK SAT REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE, COMMENTED THAT DURING THE ACTION AT PHOU PHA THI THE PRO-LAO DEFENDERS TOOK 800 CASUALTIES AND THAT AMONG THEM WERE 18 AMERICANS AND MORE THAN 100 THAIS WHO WERE KILLED. HE ADDED THAT MOST OF THE GOVERNMENT

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(descipation) (General generals)

TROOPS AT PHOU PHA THI HAD BEEN MEOS. ONLY 188 OF THE DEFENDERS WERE LAG. (FIELD COMMENT: SOTH'S STATEMENTS WERE GREATLY EXAGGERATED AND HAD NO BASIS IN FACT. THE ONLY STATEMENT APPROACHING THE TRUTH IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE DEFENDERS WERE MEOS. AN ACCOUNT EROADCAST FROM PEKING BY THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH ON 21 MARCH CLAIMED THAT OVER 168 ENEMY TROOPS WERE WIPED OUT IN THE PHOU PHA THI AREA AND THAT AMONG THESE WERE 28 AMERICAN ADVISORS.)

2. ON 16 MARCH A PATHET LAO SOLDIER AT THE

NEW LAO HAK SAT INSTALLATION SAID THAT THE

PATHET LAO WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE PHOU PHA THI ON

12 MARCH (SIC) IN AN HOUR BECAUSE THEY HAD THE

SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WHO REALLY HATED THE AMERICAN

IMPERIALISTS. (FIELD COMMENT: THE PATHET LAO DID NOT

ADMIT TO THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE ATTACKING FORCE,

WHICH WAS NORTH VIETNAMESE.) THE SAME TOLDIER SAID

THAT LAO ARMED FORCES UNITS CANNOT ENTER LIBERATED

AREAS. BUT THE PATHET LAO CAN STAY IN VIENTIANE. THE

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PATHET LAO BELIEVED THAT THEY CAN ALSO CAPTURE.
VIENTIANE IN LESS THAN ONE HOUR. THERE WOULD BE NO
PROBLEM IF THEY HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE THEY
WERE COUNTING ON. VIENTIANE IS SMALLER THAN DIEN BIEN
PHOU, BUT THE PATHET LAO DID NOT WANT TO SEE BLOODSHED
IN VIENTIANE. WHEN TIME CAME THE PATHET LAO WOULD BE
ABLE TO CAPTURE VIENTIANE WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT.

3. DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID USIS USMACV